

OF THE UNITED STATES
THE Humane Society
CLOSE-UP REPORT

HSUS Exposes Livestock Transportation Cruelty

After a massive investigation covering nine months, twenty states, and more than 20,000 miles, The HSUS has documented that every day and every night, thousands of cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens, and other animals are being crowded, beaten, electrically shocked, trampled—or even killed—during miserable journeys that ultimately end at the slaughterhouses of this country.

Animals are injured during loading, then forced to negotiate dark truck interiors, steep ramps, narrow doorways, sharp turns, and slippery flooring. They are loaded so hurriedly that they knock down or climb onto those ani-

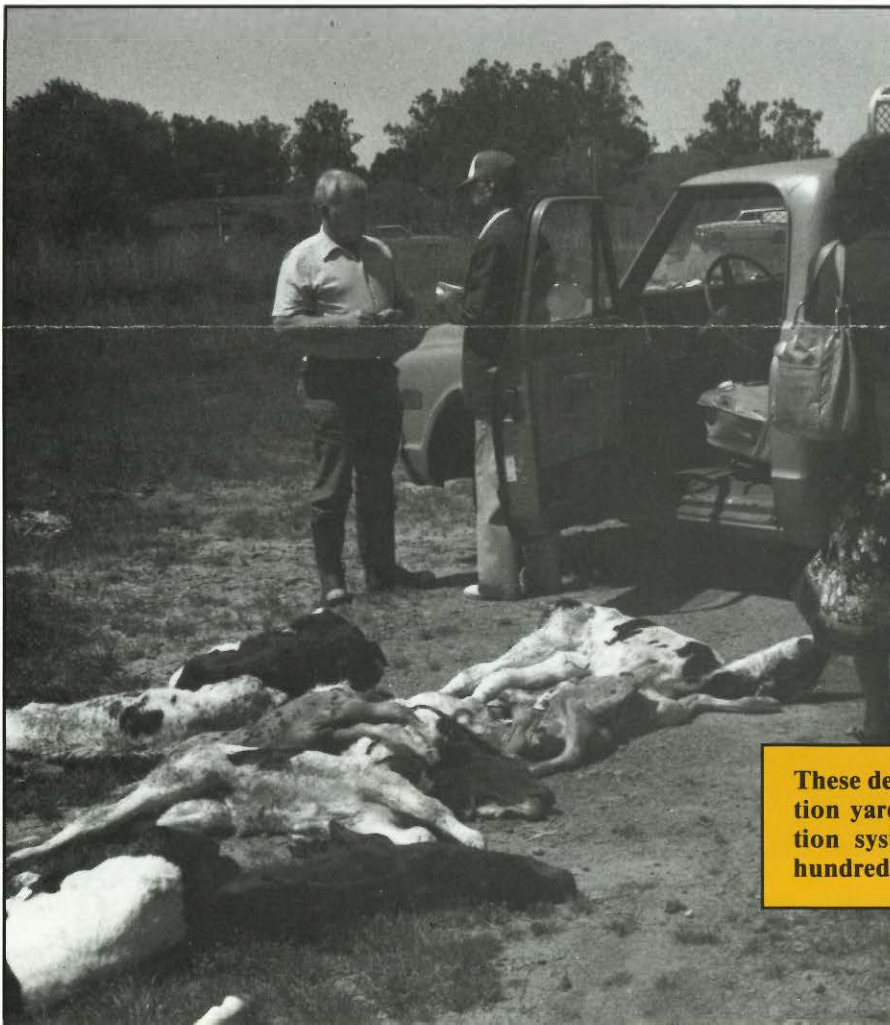
mals ahead of them and are crowded so tightly that they injure or suffocate each other. During their journey (which may last for sixty hours), they are forced to endure extremes of weather in all climates and deprived of food and/or water. As they are unloaded, they are driven from trucks onto filthy, slippery loading ramps, often over the bodies of their dying companions. They stumble, sometimes breaking their legs, yet are forced to continue this final journey on their knees. Weak, crippled, old, young, and lame animals are mercilessly ramrodded through auction yards and their maze of holding pens, chutes, and sales

arenas, then reloaded to endure another journey to a feedlot, finishing yard, slaughterhouse, or yet another auction. The longer and greater the number of journeys, the greater the suffering of the animals.

No one knows exactly how many animals are brutalized in this manner during transport and at auctions. Record-keeping within the meat industry is incomplete. We do know that, every year, hundreds of thousands of animals die between farm and feedlot; tens of thousands die during transit; and more than 100,000 die before arriving at their final destination. There are livestock auctions and/or slaughterhouses in almost every state. (In 1983, Texas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Wisconsin, Colorado, and California led in various numbers of cattle, hogs, and sheep slaughtered.)

Why do these intolerable conditions exist? Our investigators learned through painstaking research that the meat in-

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These dead calves, tossed in a heap outside an auction yard, were victims of a livestock transportation system that causes suffering and death to hundreds of thousands of animals every year.

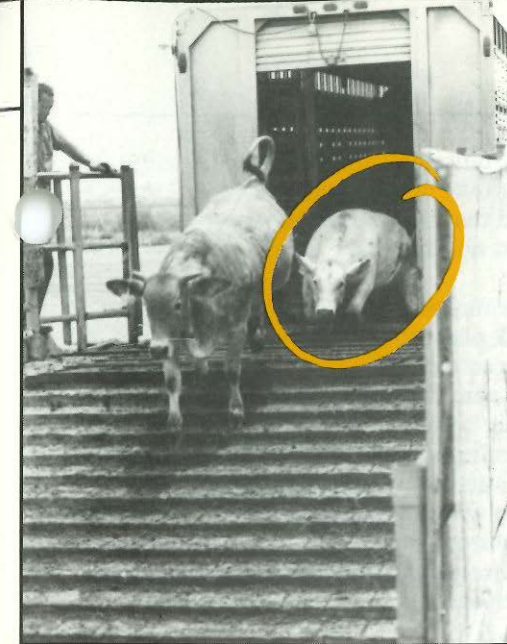
One dead sow was found at the unloading dock. The carcass remained in the dock for about three hours while other stock was unloaded, often trampling the dead sow. The sow was later hauled to the rear of the building and dumped outside. A dead cow that arrived on one truck was also dumped in the same place. ►



An injured pig suffered the entire afternoon by being trampled by other hogs in its pen. It was unable to use its hind quarters and had to drag itself around on its front legs. As other pigs bumped into it, it fell over and was unable to get up until no other hogs were around...During the course of the day, it was estimated that over 500 hogs were driven through the pig's pen while it huddled at one side and tried to stay out of the way. ▲

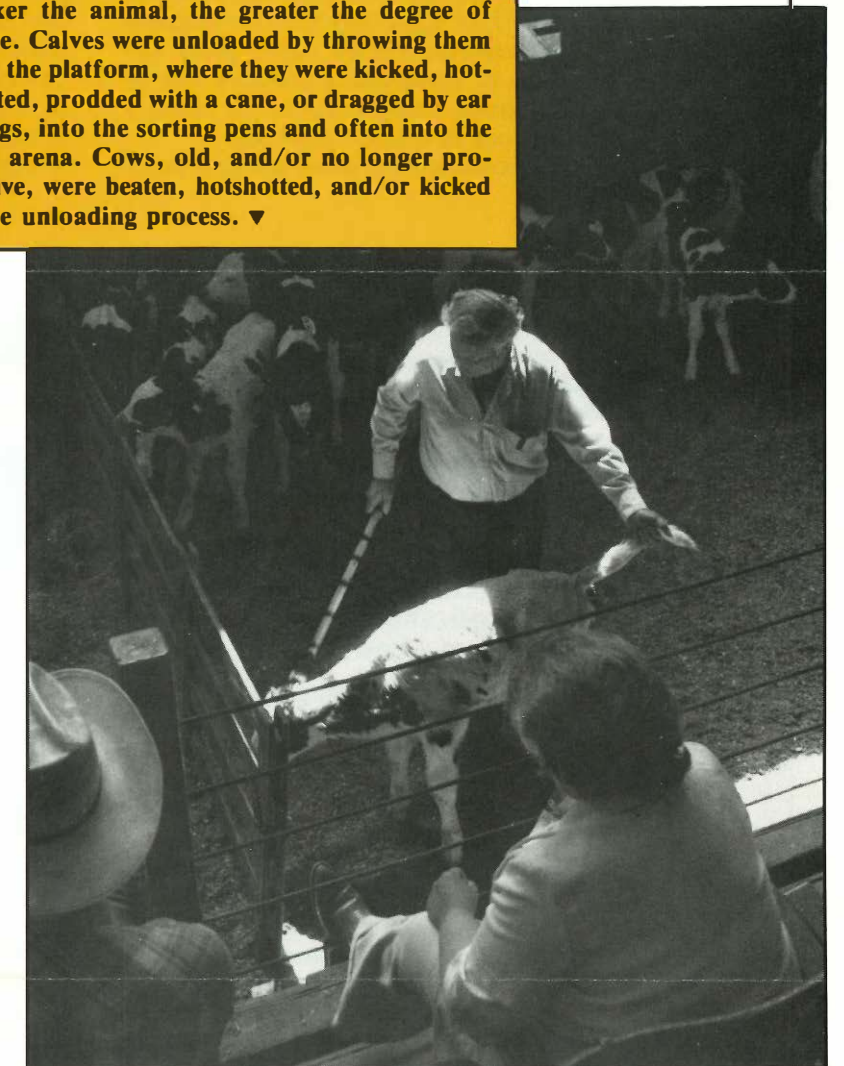


Most pigs were hit viciously on the snout, rib cage area, and across the back. The squealing was ear-shattering as the animals were hit with clubs and bot shots. Then, as the pigs were in the sale ring, one man would continuously bit with a whip each animal coming into the sale ring—for no apparent reason. The two young adult men who were gate openers and responsible for moving the animals around the ring each used oak canes. Both men would bit the pigs across the snouts. When one or two pigs refused to leave the sale ring, they were bit viciously hard on the side of the snout or across the back or poked in the rib cage area until they would scream in pain and eventually leave the sale ring. ►



Cattle fall into the truck-dock gaps and injure themselves to the point that skin abrasions, limps, and broken legs are obvious. Animals with broken legs attempt to negotiate unloading areas on their knees. ◀

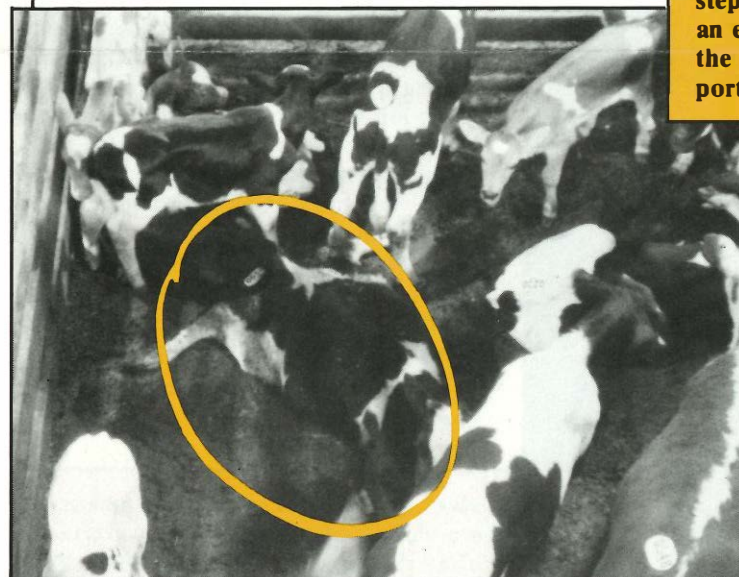
At almost every yard, the smaller, older, or weaker the animal, the greater the degree of abuse. Calves were unloaded by throwing them onto the platform, where they were kicked, hot-shotted, prodded with a cane, or dragged by ear or legs, into the sorting pens and often into the sales arena. Cows, old, and/or no longer productive, were beaten, hotshotted, and/or kicked in the unloading process. ▼



At 9:00 a.m., there were two dead hogs on the loading dock, one of which had bloated and turned green. Within thirty minutes, another hog was dragged the outside length of the barn (approximately 300 feet) by a rear leg and placed near the dead ones. This late arrival was not dead but had become trampled and stressed during transit and was unable to right itself from a position on its side. Due to the fact that a flea market was being conducted in the parking lot of the stockyards facing the loading dock, an employee of the property backed the animal towards the woods, well out of the sight of all spectators. It was still in this position seven hours later. ◀

Livestock Suffer These Abuses Every Day

One "spreader" calf (which had split its back legs at a 90° angle to its body, unable to rise) was placed in a pen with numerous other calves, and additional calves were shoved on top of it. It was totally surrounded by standing stock, many of which were stepping on it continually. This calf was kicked, jabbed, and repeatedly shocked in an effort to get it to leave the pen. When someone finally objected to the abuse of the calf, a regular handler...hobbled the animal's rear legs together so it could support itself standing up and led it to a separate pen. ◀▼



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dustry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been aware for decades of the misery and suffering caused livestock during transport and have written about these conditions extensively. They have, however, chosen to tolerate a certain level of injury, death, and abuse. Economically, that loss has been built into the profit structure of the meat producing industries. Public concern has, until this time, not been intense enough to force the industry to change, and few state anti-cruelty laws include any protection for livestock. The Twenty-Eight-Hour Law is the only federal safeguard for transportation of livestock. Passed eighty years ago when the primary means of transporting livestock was by rail, it doesn't apply to truck transportation, the primary method of moving livestock in modern America.

By visiting feedlots, accompanying short-distance haul-

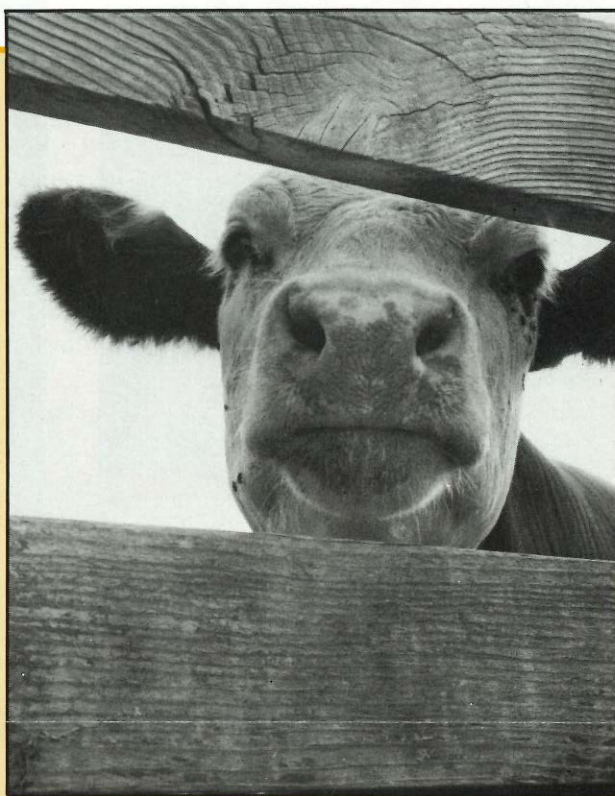
ers, following long-distance haulers, inspecting auction facilities, and observing over 30,000 animals, HSUS investigators have concluded that the abuse and suffering of livestock during transport and handling are of major proportions.

Fueled by the information contained in its comprehensive study, The HSUS plans to see that public apathy and ignorance towards the conditions of livestock during transport are changed and that the meat industry works to improve conditions under which so many animals are transported. We are continuing to monitor and expose livestock transportation and auction conditions throughout the United States. We are working with local humane groups to improve or pass livestock-protection laws in their jurisdictions. And, we will continue to formulate *new* strategies to end livestock suffering.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of food animals by joining our campaign to eliminate abuses during the transport of livestock. Here's how:

- **Work on improving or passing laws** in your state that will require humane treatment for animals in transit and at auction. Send for our legislative action sheet that will describe what steps you must take to have laws enacted or enforced.
- **Ask your local humane society to observe the conditions** at livestock auctions in your area. Send for our fact sheets on livestock auctions and transportation and pass these along to your local humane society for its information. Also, send these fact sheets to your local media to alert them—and the general public—to livestock problems.
- **Write to companies involved nationally in the meat industry** and tell them that you as a consumer demand that animals destined for auction or slaughter be treated humanely at every stage of their lives. Write to us for a sample letter.
- **If you choose to include meat in your diet**, buy only locally raised, transported, and slaughtered meat. Such animals have, quite probably, suffered less during the transport process. You will help to keep local farmers



— HSUS/Holme

in business and reduce the numbers of animals forced to endure cruel long-distance travel.

- **Finally, help support The HSUS in its work to eliminate cruel handling of all animals**, including those that suffer during transport and auction. Your tax-deductible contribution will help to ensure the success of our campaign to promote humane treatment of all animals in the United States.



The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 (202) 452-1100

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